

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

This Substitute Amendment and Reply is identical to the submission filed on February 11, 2007, except for claim 20 being designated “previously presented” instead of “currently amended,” as noted in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment.

The excess claims fees were previously paid.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-42 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 17 and 21 are amended. Claims 29-42 are added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

This amendment is intended to supplement the response filed previously on December 25, 2006, before the filing of the RCE. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the arguments and the Declaration under Rule 131 presented therein when reviewing this submission.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Amendments to claims 1 and 17

Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to improve their readability, and to replace “said” with “the”. Their scope remains unchanged.

New Claims 29-42

Newly added claims 29-42 are based on originally filed (and allowed) claims 20-23. The subject matter of originally filed claims 20-23 has been rewritten in more readable form, and in smaller “increments.” The subject matter of these claims is derived from the originally filed claims 20-23.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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